(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand for a Powerful Transmitter there to cover a wider area; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from time to time for extending TV coverage in Dakshin Kannad district of Karnataka and establishment of a high power TV transmitter at Mangalore.

(c) In addition to the Low Power (100W) TV transmitter functioning at Mangalore, a Low Power TV transmitter has also been set up at Udipi in Dakshin Kannad district. Due to constraint of resources in the Seventh Plan, there is no proposal to establish a high power transmitter at Mangalore, in replacement of the existing low power transmitter.

Saving of dwindling tribals of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

405. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Government's plans to save the dwindling tribals of Andaman & Nicobar Islands; and

(b) measures taken to protect their culture, ecology, economy and speciality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) In Andaman & Nicobar Islands five tribal groups, namely, Onges, Great Andamanese, Shompens, Sentinelese, Jarawas have been identified to be having low growth rate. They have been declared as primitive tribes. In order to preserve their culture ecology, economy, etc.; special measures have been taken. These include setting up of an expert group to study the reasons for stagnation in their population and suggest measures for dealing with their health and nutrition problems, Besides, as special agency called Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas samiti has also been set up to ensure their protection and development. The areas inhabited by the tribals are fully protected under the provisions of A & N Island Protection Aboriginal Tribes Regulation which prevents outsiders from entering into the tribal areas without valid permit issued by the competent authority.

Inclusion of christians in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes list

406. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in "The Hindu" of 3rd May 1988 under the heading. 'Christian converts not to be included in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has rejected the plea for inclusion of members of Scheduled Castes and Tribes who converted to Christianity in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so what are the details in this regard alongwith the details of the orders issued by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The members of Scheduled Castes who are converted to Christianity cannot be treated as Scheduled Castes because according to para 3 of the Constitution (Sheduled Castes) Order, 1950, amended upto date 'no person who professes a religion different from the Hindu or the Sikh religion shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste'.

In the case of Scheduled Tribes, however, there is no reference to religion and hence a member of Scheduled Tribe may profess any religion.

Ban on production of Kesari Dal

407. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban production of Kesari Dal in the country; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The production and sale of Kesari Dal is being discouraged by the Government. The following steps have been taken in this regard:

(i) Cultivation of kesari dal is banned in Uttar Pradesh. The States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have taken steps to replace its cultivation with other suitable pulse or oilseed crops.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to cultivate low neurotoxin varieties of kesari dal in the kesari growing belts.

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to educate the consumers on the harmful effects of kesari dal for removing the neurotoxin before consumption by the methods available.

(iv) The sale of kesari dal and its products of mixture of kesari dal with other dals or for use as an ingredient for preparation of any article of food is prohibited under the P.F.A. Rules, 1955 (Rule. 44A).

(v) The State Governments have been requested to ban the sale of kesari dal. All States exceepting the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have banned its sale.

Allotment of Rice to Tamil Nadu

408. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governor of Tamil Nadu has approached the Central Government in June, 1988 to raise the monthly quota of rice for the coming months of the year of 1988; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by Government on the above demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been requesting for increase in allocation of rice.

(b) Allocation of rice to Tamil Nadu is presently maintained at the level of 50,000 tonnes a month.

Distribution of feature films

409. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether Government propose to nationalise the distribution of feature films produced in India; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): No, Sir.

Expansion of AIR and T.V. Network

410. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand AIR & T.V. network during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the expansion network drawn up for implementation